

Georgia Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) **FACT SHEET**



The Georgia GYTS includes data on prevalence of cigarette and other tobacco use as well as information on five determinants of tobacco use: access/availability and price, environmental tobacco smoke exposure (ETS), cessation, media and advertising, and school curriculum. These determinants are components Georgia could include in a comprehensive tobacco control program. The Georgia GYTS was a school-based survey of students in grades 7-9, conducted in 2002.

A two-stage cluster sample design was used to produce representative data for all of Georgia plus Tbilisi, other urban, and rural areas. At the first stage, schools were selected with probability proportional to enrollment size. At the second stage, classes were randomly selected and all students in selected classes were eligible to participate. The school response rate was 100.0%, the student response rate was 85.3%, and the overall response rate was 85.3%. A total of 4,543 students participated in the Georgia GYTS.

Prevalence

43.9% of students had ever smoked cigarettes (Boy = 55.5%, Girl = 32.7%)
 23.3% currently use any tobacco product (Boy = 33.8%, Girl = 13.0%)
 22.1% currently smoke cigarettes (Boy = 32.6%, Girl = 12.1%)
 2.5% current daily cigarette smokers (Boy = 4.7%, Girl = 0.5%)
 5.7% currently smoke cigars (Boy = 8.1%, Girl = 3.4%)
 52.2% ever smokers initiated smoking before age 10 (Boy = 53.8%, Girl = 49.5%)
 22.7% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year (Boy = 19.6%, Girl = 24.8%)

Access and Availability - Current Smokers

20.1% usually smoke at home
 53.0% buy cigarettes in a store
 97.1% who bought cigarettes in a store were NOT refused purchase because of their age

Environmental Tobacco Smoke

94.7% live in homes where others smoke in their presence
 93.4% are around others who smoke in places outside their home
 77.7% think smoking should be banned from public places
 26.4% think smoke from others is harmful to them
 73.0% have one or more parents who smoke
 8.3% have most or all friends who smoke

Cessation - Current Smokers

41.2% want to stop smoking
 49.0% tried to stop smoking during the past year
 57.5% have ever received help to stop smoking
 2.3% feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning

Media and Advertising

62.8% saw anti-smoking messages vs. 75.8% saw pro-smoking messages on TV
 53.5% saw anti-smoking messages vs. 77.0% saw pro-smoking messages on billboards
 37.6% saw anti-smoking ads vs. 74.0% saw pro-smoking ads in newspapers or magazines
 28.4% have an object with a cigarette brand logo
 10.8% were offered free cigarettes by a tobacco company representative

School

10.4% had been taught in class, during the past year, about the dangers of smoking
 11.9% had discussed in class, during the past year, reasons why people their age smoke
 10.3% had been taught in class, during the past year, the effects of tobacco use

Highlights

- 23% of students currently use any form of tobacco; 22% currently smoke cigarettes; 3% current daily smokers; 6% currently smoke cigars; 23% never smokers likely to initiate smoking next year.
- ETS exposure is very high – Over 9 in 10 students live in homes where others smoke in their presence; Over 9 in 10 are exposed to smoke in public places; Over 7 in 10 have parents who smoke.
- Almost 3 in 10 students think smoke from others is harmful to them.
- Almost 8 in 10 students think smoking in public places should be banned.
- 4 in 10 smokers want to quit; 2% feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning.
- 6 in 10 students saw anti-smoking messages on TV vs. 7 in 10 saw pro messages; 5 in 10 saw anti messages on billboards vs. almost 8 in 10 saw pro messages; 4 in 10 saw anti ads in newspapers vs. 7 in 10 saw pro ads.
- Only 1 in 10 taught in school about dangers of smoking.